

Abstract

A system and method is disclosed for identifying and matching potential parties to a transaction involving an imbalance in a demand/supply situation. Users enter transaction data in a plurality of remote terminals of the system. The remote terminals include a first subset forming a part of at least one first (private) exchange and a second subset forming a part of a second (public) exchange. The aggregate transaction data of the first exchange define a first aggregate demand/supply imbalance of the first exchange, whereas the transaction data of the second subset define a second individual demand/supply imbalance of the individual users of the second subset. A communication network, which includes a server, links the first exchanges and the second subset of remote terminals with the server. The server polls the first exchange and the second subset of remote terminals and anonymously matches the parties based on the first and second demand/supply imbalances and on business rules administered by the server, thereby reducing the imbalance in a demand/supply situation between the parties.